

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: Oct. 9, 2009

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\*Note to the media: Molly Sander, Immunization Program manager, and Kirby Kruger, state epidemiologist, will be available to answer questions at 1:30 p.m. CST today (Oct. 9, 2009) via conference call. Media can participate in the conference call by dialing 866.637.9769.

Members of the media who wish to attend in person can meet at the Laboratory Building at 2635 East Main Avenue in Bismarck. (The Laboratory Building is on the west side of the driveway.)

Additional Doses of H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Expected To Arrive Next Week

Limited Supply of Vaccine Soon Will Be Available for Pregnant Women and Children, As Well As

Health-Care Workers

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health has received information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that approximately 7,900 doses of H1N1 influenza vaccine will be arriving in the state late next week. This shipment will consist of 3,700 doses of the nasal spray FluMist and 4,200 of the injectable flu shot.

FluMist vaccine cannot be given to infants younger than 2, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions or those 50 and older. Therefore, the FluMist will continue to be prioritized for health-care workers. The injectable doses will be allocated as follows: 3,700 doses for children ages 6 months through 18 and 500 doses for pregnant women.

"It's very good news that we are starting to receive vaccine for children and pregnant women," said Molly Sander, Immunization Program manager. "The supplies of H1N1 vaccine are still very limited, but we expect to continue receiving shipments each week, so if people in these high risk groups can't find the vaccine right away, they should keep checking."

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North Dakota received 4,000 doses of FluMist this week which were prioritized for health-care workers in the state. The CDC estimates that more than 150 million doses ultimately will be available in the U.S., and North Dakota should receive more than 380,000 doses.

The North Dakota Department of Health has developed a flu shot clinic locator for the public to use when looking for vaccine. Local public health units and private providers have been encouraged to post their clinic information at that site. Information will be updated frequently as more vaccine is received in the state and more clinics are scheduled. The public is encouraged to check the site frequently for updates. The information can be found by visiting <a href="www.ndflu.com">www.ndflu.com</a> and clicking on the Flu Shot Clinic Locator in the Frequently Requested Box.

For more information, the media can contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl at 701.328.2372.

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Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at <a href="https://www.nddohpressroom.gov">www.nddohpressroom.gov</a>.

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